

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN. Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON. Established June, 1846

Consolidated Aug. 2, 1881.

SUMTER, S. C. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1899.

New Series—Vol. XIX. No. 14

The Watchman and Southron.

Published Every Wednesday,

—BY—

N. G. Osteen,
SUMTER, S. C.

TERMS:

\$1.50 per annum—in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS:

One Square first insertion.....\$1.00
Every subsequent insertion.....80
Contracts for three months, or longer will be made at reduced rates.
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Gen. Yule Falls Back

To Safer Quarters.

Abandons Glencoe, Untenable by His Small Force.

London, Oct. 25.—The following dispatch from Gen. Sir George Stewart White to the Marquis of Lansdowne, secretary of state for war, received last evening at 11 o'clock, was posted at the war office soon after midnight:

"Ladysmith, Oct. 24, 9 p. m.
"Information received yesterday showed that the Boers had established themselves in considerable numbers in an exceedingly strong position west of the main road leading from Ladysmith to Dundee. I also had information that the Dundee force, formerly commanded by Gen. Symons, and since his wounding, commanded by Gen. Yule, was falling back on Ladysmith by way of the Helderberg road, Beit's and the valleys of the Waasbank and Sunday rivers and was expected to reach Sunday river valley today. I therefore moved out with a strong force to cover the movement of Yule's column. The enemy was discovered about seven miles out of Ladysmith in a position of great natural strength west of the road. When he saw the preparations were being made against him he opened fire with one gun with great accuracy."

"Our artillery soon got into position and the gun was silenced. Our troops were ordered to occupy a strong ridge parallel to the enemy's position, but nearer to the road.
"I confined my efforts to occupying him and hitting him hard enough to prevent his taking action against Yule's column. Numbers of the enemy fled to the west and the firing had practically ceased at 2 o'clock."
The war office dispatch seems to realize the worst fears. Gen. Yule has abandoned not only Dundee, but Glencoe also, and so far as present news would indicate, he has neither joined Gen. White nor reached Ladysmith. Gen. White's "successful action," as announced in parliament by Mr. Wyndham, seems to resolve itself into a mere engaging of the attention of the Free State troops while Gen. Yule is slipping backward.

It is evident that the official dispatches that both commandant Gen. Joubert's column on the north and the Orange Free State troops on the west now occupy strong positions, and that nothing hinders the Boers from following up Gen. Yule's retirement, and getting around Ladysmith from the southeast. Until reinforcements arrive it seems that Gen. White is obliged to concentrate on Ladysmith.
It is believed that the government have other dispatches that have not yet been published. The secretary of State for war left Mr. Chant's residence immediately at the end of the banquet to Gen. Harrison, and proceeded to the war office, where, even after midnight, there was considerable activity, many visitors calling to inquire for information, among them a sister of Gen. Sir Archibald Hunter.

London, Oct. 25.—The Capetown correspondent of The Daily Mail telegraphing at 9 45 p. m. yesterday, says: Gen. Yule has performed a brilliant strategic movement. By a swift march to the south, leaving Glencoe empty, he has effected a junction of his forces with those of Sir George Stewart White slightly to the north of Ladysmith. The two are now in a position to offer battle. I believe the first attack will be made on the large Free State force, which entered Natal by way of Tintwa Pass, and which has since been harassing Ladysmith. The military authorities decided that by joining their forces the two generals would better be able to cope with one large force at a time than by having two small detachments to oppose simultaneously two big Boer forces.

"Accordingly, after defeating the Free State troops they will offer battle to Commandant Gen. Joubert. Only 40 miles now separate the two Boer forces. Hence the need for swift and telling action.
"The two sections of the Boer army together outnumber the entire British force by 3 to 1. Hard fighting is certain at an early date. Our men are confident and there is much enthusiasm

"The fighting today outside Ladysmith was a mere brush. The losses on either side were insignificant. It was merely an artillery duel, in which the Boers came off decidedly the worse."

WOLSELEY'S VIEWS.

London, Oct. 24.—The parliamentary secretary of the war office, George Wyndham, in the house of commons today announced that Field Marshal Lord Wolseley, the commander-in-chief of the forces, sums the situation in Natal today as follows: "Gen. Yule has fallen back to effect a junction with Sir George Stewart White. He camped yesterday evening about 16 miles south of Dundee, without seeing anything of the enemy during the march, and it has been reported that 'all's well on the Waasbank river.'"

"Gen. White fought a successful action with an Orange Free State force today, on the road between Ladysmith and Newcastle, and should join hands with Gen. Yule this afternoon."

"Gen. Yule reports that his wounded are doing well."

"The Boer wounded on our hands are treated just as our own, and I have every reason to believe the Boers will treat any of our wounded in their hands in a similarly humane manner."

Mr. Wyndham added: "I may remind the house that the Transvaal is a party to the Geneva convention."

"Lord Wolseley further says: 'I have also received from Gen. Walker, at Cape Town, the following: The last message from Kimberley, Oct. 22, 2 p. m., reports all well.'"

Battle Near Ladysmith Was a Serious Fight.

Gen. Joubert Believed to be Pressing on Ladysmith.

London, Oct. 26.—With unconvincing humor, a Cape Town correspondent telegraphed yesterday: "The censorship, which is always a delicate matter, is working smoothly and without a hitch."

This exactly hits off the state of affairs today. An ominous veil is still drawn over the movements of Gen. Sir George Stewart White and Gen. Yule. Beyond belated Ladysmith dispatches concerning the Elandsagte fight which are still filtering in, the British public is left in complete darkness and to conjecture over "cooked" war office dispatches. The officials of the war office last evening said that very few dispatches have arrived and that nothing further was to be expected until morning.

Since it is practically certain that Gen. Yule has now effected a junction with Gen. White—although this was not brought about Tuesday night, as announced by the Daily Mail, but some time Wednesday—and as both are now in a position of safety, conjecture concerns itself chiefly with the manner of Gen. Yule's retreat. That it was hasty is evident. Was it orderly? Was any considerable camp equipment abandoned? Was there any fighting on the way? Such questions and others like them the public are anxiously asking. Since the receipt of Gen. White's curious first description of the Ladysmith fight, in which the British lost 100 men, little reliance can be placed on the official dispatches. While the concealment of the facts regarding Gen. Yule's retreat can be amply justified on the ground of keeping the intelligence from the Boers, the hiding of the news respecting the Hussars and Fusiliers, who were apparently captured in the battle of Glencoe, is severely criticized, no intimation having been given that the officers were missing.

The heavy losses of the British troops in facing only some 8,000 Boers are commented upon as showing what rifle fire means today in the hands of even undisciplined men who can shoot fairly straight and stand their ground.

Gen. Sir Redvers Buller is expected to arrive early next week and the indications are that some troops have already arrived at the front and been in the fighting, whose arrival has not yet been announced. There is every possibility, therefore, that reinforcements are moving up. This is calculated to hasten Commandant Gen. Joubert's attack on Ladysmith, and news of a big battle is daily expected.

About half a complete army corps is now afloat, and a lull has occurred in dispatching the remainder of Gen. Buller's forces owing to some difficulty in obtaining transports.

Although news has arrived that Gen. Sir William Penn Symons is doing well, there is no indication of his whereabouts. It is presumed that he is a Dundee in the hands of the Boers.

The commander-in-chief, Field Marshal Lord Wolseley, has apparently been convicted of "doctoring" official reports from the front, and there is a strenuous demand on all

sides for a revision to the earlier practice, when the reports of Gen. Sir George Stewart White, the British commander in Natal, were given out textually as soon as received. The commander-in-chief's summary read in the house of commons yesterday spoke of Gen. White having fought a successful action, whereas Gen. White's own account puts an entirely different complexion on the situation and reduces the movement to its proper proportions and shows that further exciting intelligence may be expected from the same quarter at any moment.

It is quite evident that the war in Natal has only commenced, and that the Boers are by no means discouraged at losing the first two battles, and many experts are satisfied Gen. Joubert is even now close to the heels of the British and that a decisive action may be fought today or tomorrow.

Later estimates of the Boer losses at Elandsagte give 300 killed. Their coolness, bravery and good aim can be judged from the fact that out of the 17 or 18 officers with the half battalion of Gordon Highlanders, four were killed and 13 wounded, while the casualties among the rank and file were 27 per cent. during less than three hours fighting.

A dispatch from Capetown today says that Gen. White has engaged the Orange Free State Boers who were advancing on Ladysmith, about seven miles northward and that it was believed the advance had been repelled. This is probably another version of yesterday's fighting already known.

Gen. White this morning officially notified the war office that the bullet had been extracted from Gen. Symons' wound and that he was doing well.

Other dispatches from Capetown say that advices from Mafeking confirm the statement that 50 Boers were killed by an explosion of two trucks of dynamite purposely sent out by Col. Baden Powell to draw the Boer fire.

Nine Officers and the Men of the Hussars Who Were Out Off.

London, Oct. 26.—The dispatches from the front are so diversified and contradictory that it is difficult to outline the situation with any degree of precision. Three or four main facts, however, stand out prominently. Gen. Symons' fight was not anything like the decisive victory at first alleged, and Gen. Yule would probably have been annihilated or met with the same fate as the captured Hussars if he had not retreated. Gen. White's "artillery duel" at Rietfontein was a very severe engagement, in which the rifle did great execution, and where success was only achieved at a distressing cost. The bombardment of Mafeking has commenced, with unknown result, and the Boers have got their Hussar prisoners safely to Pretoria.

Altogether, the campaign is being pushed by the Boers so strenuously and on such strategical lines that the situation of the British must in all probability give them cause for deep anxiety for some time to come. It is difficult to see how the concentrated force at Ladysmith will be able to take the aggressive immediately. Apart from the fatigue, regiments like the Gordon Highlanders and Royal Rifles have been practically without officers since the fights, and 135 additional officers have been ordered to leave England as speedily as possible.

A batch of delayed dispatches arrived here this morning via Lorenzo Marquez. They are as follows:

Pretoria, Oct. 21.—Friday's fight at Dundee started at 5 in the morning and lasted until 2 in the afternoon. The burghers, under Gen. Lucas Meyer, took up a strong position, but were compelled to retire to their laager after capturing a Maxim. The fighting was resumed at 10 this morning in the neighborhood of Glencoe and Dundee. Several Boer forces were engaged. The firing was distinctly heard at Dannhauser.

Pretoria, Oct. 21.—President Steyn of the Orange Free State has issued a proclamation to the Basuto nation explaining the reasons for the war and also stating that Boer forces have been placed near the Basutoland border. He makes known that the republic is at peace with the Basutos and wishes to continue so, adding that no injury will be done to Basutos remaining quiet and not assisting the British.

Pretoria, Oct. 22.—The British prisoners captured Friday near Dundee were entrained at Dannhauser. They filled 10 trucks. The officers traveled first class, and a separate van was provided for two wounded officers. An enormous crowd assembled at the station here to witness their arrival, but there was no demonstration.

When they alighted the prisoners were received with funeral silence upon the part of the crowd. The greatest order and decorum prevailed while they were traversing the streets. The wounded were taken to a hospital, while the other officers and men were marched to the race course, escorted by mounted burghers, and were encamped on the spot where Jameson's troopers were confined. The officers (Lieut. Grimshaw, Lieut. Majendie and Lieut. Shore of the Dublin Fusiliers) looked in good health. They are quartered in a building apart from the men. On giving their parole they will be allowed the freedom of the whole enclosure. The men appear indifferent and spent most of their time smoking. They sleep on the grand stand.

Details of the fighting at Rietfontein are coming in slowly. A special dispatch from Ladysmith, dated Oct. 24, filed after the fight, says: "On discovery that the Boers were massed to the westward of the main road to Dundee an attempt was made by a train to recover the body of Col. Scott-Chisholme, killed at Elandsagte. The train was fired upon and obliged to retire and Gen. White moved out to attack the Boers, believed to be Free State soldiers who should have joined the Transvaalers at Elandsagte. Gen. White commanded personally. The Fifth Lancers were placed on either flank. They first came in touch with the Boers below Modderspruit, where 1,500 burghers occupied a strong ridge whence they opened fire at 1,200 yards, hitting several of the British. In the meanwhile, the Eridars and Natal Carbineers advanced unscattered through an opening in the ridge under the fire of a Boer gun, while the Imperial Light Horse took part of the crest of the ridge, the Boers retiring."

At about 9, however, a Boer gun stationed on the crest of Mafeking opened fire with great accuracy on the British force, which in the meanwhile had come up; but the shells failed to explode and the British artillery silenced the opposition. The whole British force then advanced and the action became general. A large body of Boers occupied strong positions at Mafeking and the British guns shelled the position and the infantry advanced under cover of the fire. The Gloucesters and Devons crossed a fearful fire zone beneath Tuitanyoni Hill, whence the Boers poured a withering fire with such effect that 30 of the attackers dropped within a distance of 200 yards. Seeing the peril of the Devons and Gloucesters, Gen. White dispatched the Carbineers and Liverpools to take the enemy in the rear.

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Enemy's Loss Not Known

London, Oct. 26.—The war office today received the following telegram from Gen. White:

Ladysmith, Oct. 25.—Brig. Gen. Yule's force has left Dundee with the view of concentration at Ladysmith. To avoid the risk of life which a long march would have entailed, the wounded were left at Dundee under medical supervision.

Yesterday Sir George White, having ascertained by a previous reconnaissance that the Free State forces had moved eastward from Bester's station and were attempting to gain the road from Ladysmith to the north, moved out in the direction of Elandsagte with the Fifth Lancers, Nineteenth Hussars, Imperial Light Horse, Natal mounted volunteers, two field batteries, one mountain battery and a brigade of infantry.

The enemy posted a battery two miles south of Modderspruit and opened with infantry fire at long range on the British advance guard, consisting of the Nineteenth Hussars. This was followed by artillery fire directed with considerable accuracy against the British guns. An action lasting six hours ensued at Rietfontein farm. The enemy were driven from the hills commanding the roads. Sir George White's object being accomplished, the column returned to Ladysmith. The enemy is believed to have suffered.

"Several Boers own officially that they lost over one hundred killed at Elandsagte. Three hundred prisoners wounded and otherwise, are in the hands of the British, including several of high position."

"In the action of Elandsagte, Oct. 21, the Johannesburg force, with a detachment of the German corps was completely broken up."

"All was well at Mafeking up to Oct. 21."

"All was well at Kimberley up to Oct. 23. The defenders are in good spirits."

YULE REACHES LADYSMITH

London, Oct. 26.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Gen. White:

"Ladysmith, Oct. 26, 12 40 p. m.—Gen. Yule's column has just marched in here after a very hard march during a night of exceptionally heavy rain. The men, though done up, are in good spirits and only want a rest."

The enemy did not molest them."

The services rendered by the Colonial Guards deserves special mention.

Part of the bridge over Sunday river was destroyed to prevent the possibility of the enemy transporting guns.

GEN. SYMONS IS DEAD.

London, Oct. 26.—The death of Gen. Sir William Penn Symons, the British commander at Glencoe, who was shot in the stomach in the battle with the Boers there Oct. 20, was officially announced in the house of commons today.

The parliamentary secretary of war office, Mr. Wyndham, in announcing the death of Gen. Symons, said:

"The news was considerably sent to Gen. White by Gen. Joubert, which confirms the impression that Gen. Yule had to leave his wounded at Dundee."

Unimportant Skirmish Near Kimberley Last Tuesday.

Cape Town, Oct. 27.—Evening.—Official report from Kimberley dated Tuesday state that Col. Scott-Turner, with 270 men proceeded northward to Macfarlane's farm, where they unsaddled their horses. At 9 o'clock a party of Boers was seen on the right flank and was quickly scattered, Col. Scott-Turner opening fire on them and several of the enemy being seen to fall. The enemy moved to a sand heap and opened fire on the British, who returned the fire.

Col. Scott-Turner attempted to prevent the Boers from advancing against Col. Murray, but was met with a heavy fire from a dam wall 600 feet to the left.

At 11 o'clock Col. Murray ordered 150 men of the Lancashire regiment to proceed to the north.

An armored train is already supported Col. Scott-Turner. At midday Col. Murray started also, with two field guns and two Maxims and 70 mounted men. One of the two British guns opened suddenly upon the Boers who were in an unfavorable position. The Boers artillery fire was brisk.

Another armored train was held in readiness. At 2 o'clock the second train was sent forward with additional ammunition.

The Lancashires behaved splendidly and Col. Scott-Turner highly commended them.

Commandant Rotha and many Boers were killed. The British loss was three killed and 21 wounded. The engagement was a brilliant success for the British forces.

Capetown, Oct. 27.—A telegram from Bulawayo, Rhodesia, dated Monday, says: "A Boer force is threatening Chief Khama and Chief Linchwe, who are loyal to Great Britain. Their country lies at the extreme northwest of the Transvaal and includes Beesuanaland. It seems a gross mistake for the Boers to provoke war among the natives. The probable explanation is that the Boer force intends to destroy the railway to Bulawayo, which runs through Khama's country, and thus prevent any attempt of Col. Plumer's Rhodesian force to go to the relief of Mafeking. Already there have been stories of a Rhodesian armored train engaging the Boers some distance north of Mafeking."

London, Oct. 27.—The colonial office has made public the following telegram received from Governor Hutchinson, dated Pietermaritzburg, Oct. 26: "The following telegram has been received from Greytown, from D. Greig, a resident of Dundee, formerly in the telegraph service:

"I left Dundee this morning. Gen. Symons died on Monday at 5 p. m., and was buried the following morning, close to the English church by the Rev. W. Daily. There was a firing party and a few medical officers and a few civilians attended the funeral. There were no Boers. Col. Eckett, Majors Boulton, Hammersley and Nugent and also Crum, Johnstone and Ryan are improving. The Boers occupied Dundee Monday afternoon."

Lorenzo Marquez, Oct. 27.—The following dispatch has been received here from Pretoria, filed yesterday: "The government has issued a proclamation declaring that no rents or interests on bonds can be claimed during the continuance of martial law, nor within a certain fixed period after the repeal of the same."

"The Boers at Vryburg have secured a quantity of ammunition. Commandant Schooman has seized Krookdipot and destroyed the railway bridge there."

President Kruger is in excellent health."

Capetown, Oct. 27.—Sir Alfred

Milner, governor of Cape Colony, and W. P. Schreiner, the premier, have issued a proclamation declaring null and void the proclamation of the Orange Free State asserting that a portion of Cape Colony is now Free State territory.

Sir Alfred Milner's proclamation warns all British subjects in the colony of their duty and obligations to the queen.

Durban, Natal, Oct. 27.—An interesting incident in connection with the Elandsagte fight is reported here. When the fire of the British guns became too hot, eight Boers ran forward out of cover and, standing their ground, coolly opened fire at the Imperial Light Horse, with the evident purpose of drawing the latter's fire, while their comrades retired. Seven of the brave eight were killed.

London, Oct. 27.—According to the latest account of the first battle at Glencoe, the Boer artillery amounted to 7,000 men and about noon another army, almost as large, under commandant Gen. Joubert, advanced to within 6,000 yards of Glencoe camp and then retired. The Boer losses were very heavy, fully 300.

London, Oct. 27.—A dispatch from Utrecht, Transvaal republic, says: "The fighting at Glencoe lasted nine hours. The burghers say that they never witnessed such a fight. Gen. Lucas Meyers' force of 6,000 with 86 guns was several times repulsed."

London, Oct. 27.—A special from Pietermaritzburg dated Oct. 24 says: "Nine hundred and eighty-four Boer prisoners arrived here this morning. They include Capt. Dewitt, Hamer, Fighlus, Dorey, Van Legger and Dottner."

London, Oct. 27.—The Magistrate at Vryburg is responsible for a report made to Premier Schreiner, at Cape Town, that 513 Boers were killed at Mafeking.

Fighting in Philippines.

Manila, Oct. 28, 5 50 p. m.—The insurgents around Calamba and Angeles have bothered the Americans lately with their repeated attacks, which like most of the Filipino attacks, consist of shooting a lot of ammunition into their opponents at long range. Maj. Cheatham's battalion of the Thirty-seventh infantry, three companies of the Twenty-first infantry, a battery of the Fifth artillery and a Gatling gun sallied out this morning from Calamba, drove the Filipinos from their trenches and pursued them for three miles, inflicting heavy loss on them. One American was killed and three were wounded in the Twenty-first.

Lieut. Fergus, with 20 scouts of the Thirty-sixth regiment, reconnoitering near Labao, encountered a party of mounted Filipinos. He killed six of them and captured eight, with ten rifles.

Four men from the gunboat Marielos were lured ashore 18 miles from Iloilo by a flag of truce and the insurgents killed one of them, wounded one and captured a third. The gunboat was unable to fire for fear of wounding the Americans.

The Second battalion of the Nineteenth regiment, Maj. Reese commanding, embarked for Iloilo today to reinforce the troops there.

Test Case as to School Fees.

Florence, Oct. 23.—M. W. F. Clayton, of this bar, who made the issue with the board of trustees of the graded school regarding the \$2 supplementary fee for all pupils except those who are unable to pay the fee, prays the circuit court for a writ of mandamus requiring the school board to cease from exacting any fees as a condition for attending the city graded schools.

The petition was sent up to Judge Klugh at Manting and he issued an order requiring the school board and the superintendent to show cause why they should not cease to charge the said fee. The rule is returnable at Kingstree, Williamsburg County, on Tuesday, October 31, and as there are many other graded schools in the State charging a supplementary fee the same as the Florence Graded School, the matter is of general interest. Copies of the petition and the order were today served upon the school board and the superintendent.

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